

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05

PRS-01 /032 W

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O 220850Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9628

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7612

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, KS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PAK TO PREDIDENT FORD

EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, TO RECEIVE REPLY TO  
PRESIDENT FORD'S SEPTEMBER 7 LETTER TO PRESIDENT PAK. IN  
PROVIDING COPY OF LETTER, AMERICA BUREAU CHIEF PAK SANG-  
YONG SAID AMBASSADOR HAHM HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO PRESENT  
LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL SEPTEMBER 20  
WASHINGTON TIME, ALTHOUGH ACTUAL PRESENTATION HAD NOT  
YET BEEN CONFIRMED. TEXT OF LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 13  
IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 7, 19976,  
CONVEYED TO ME THROUGH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER.

IT IS SATISFYING TO NOTE THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES  
HAVE THWARTED THE NORTH KOREAN SCHEME BY TAKING  
APPROPRIATE COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST THE GRAVE ACT OF  
PROVOCATION COMMITTED BY NORTH KOREA IN THE JOINT  
SECURITY AREA AT PANMUNJOM ON AUGUST 18 AND THAT A NEW  
ARRANGEMENT HAS NOW BEEN MADE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE  
SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF  
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INCIDENTS IN THE JOINT SECURITY AREA IN THE FUTURE.

I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ON ALERT INASMUCH AS THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENTIRELY DEPEND UPON THE SINCERITY ON THE PART OF NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS IN VIEW OF THEIR NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IN THE PAST.

SINCE THE STRENGTH IS THE ONLY TERM THAT IS FEARED MOST BY THE COMMUNIST REGIMES, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH ANY TYPE OF NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS IN A FIRM AND STRONG MANNER AS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN OUR JOINT STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 6.

AS IN THE PAST, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT THE MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF HOSTILITIES AND EASE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, WHILE CONSTANTLY MAINTAINING VIGILANCE AGAINST ANY POSSIBILITIES OF NORTH KOREAN MISCALCULATIONS AND PROVOCATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL KEEP ON STRIVING FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF ITS NATIONAL STRENGTH IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY.

I EARNESTLY HOPE THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THIS REGION BY FURTHER CONSOLIDATING OUR CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WHICH ARE BOUND BY THE SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THIS IN OUR JOINT RESPONSE TO THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR ENDEAVORS FOR WORLD PEACE AND WELFARE OF MANKIND.

SINCERELY, PARK CHUNG HEE. END QUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DMZ, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SEOUL07612  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760357-0682  
**From:** SEOUL  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PAK TO PREDIDENT FORD EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, TO RECEIVE REPL  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PPDC, KS, KN, (FORD, GERALD R), (PAK CHONG-HUI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006